must lie In a patrician renunciation of the world outside and the **intellectual** and moral chaos it represents. He finally not only **achieves an enhanced consciousness of life;** but, by having learnt to preserve his true self in the climate of marriage, he also consummates it. Marriage to the regenerate refined self, is not a refracting medium, but a responsive means of 'self-radiation*. Nick's struggle to consummate an achieved condition of total, integral **consciousness is** organically contrasted with Miriam's struggle to merely preserve a balance of consciousness which she had already **achieved,** for her profession is a natural meeting ground of the private world of aesthetic sensibility and the public world of **artistic responsibility. The-two** rhythms of self-consummation (the heroic, tragic) and self-preservation (the comic, human) are united in order to make **the controlling and activized** energy of conscious refinement a phenomenon of completed perfection.